



After the Harvest...

Wild game needs proper care after harvest for best table fare

As a hunter in Missouri, you never know what to expect from Mother Nature from one moment to the next. Whether you are shooting doves on a blistering hot day or shivering in your tree stand with a prize buck only yards away, after the harvest comes enjoying wild game meals. It is important to know how to properly care for the game prior to cooking it.

Remember, when harvesting any animal that you plan to eat you must get the meat into a cool environment quickly to prevent

bacteria growth and spoilage. For those hunting in the cold winters of Missouri with their muzzle-loaders, this is typically not a problem because the season is later in the year and the outside temperature will help prevent the meat from spoiling. In the early part of archery



season, however, temperatures can still be warm. It is imperative in warm weather that you recover the harvested animal and get it to a cold storage area as soon as possible.

With deer there are a couple of options that can help the flavor of the meat when it is cooked. The first option, when it is cold outside, is to leave the intestines in the animal and take the prime cuts of meat off. Dispose of the carcass, intestines and all, at one time. Second, and the one I prefer, is to dress the animal out in the field where you can remove the entrails and any scent glands that could affect the flavor of the meat.

Many small game animals such as squirrels, rabbits and doves have seasons

that encompass both warmer and cooler temperatures. With doves, early on you need to recover harvested game quickly so you may do the initial game processing such as skinning, removal of intestines and soak them in cold salt water. The quick processing of small game is crucial in ensuring the game meat retains good flavor.

Quick initial processing is also important for harvested rabbits. Otherwise, intestines can start to break down which leads to them being absorbed and tainting the meat.

Squirrels tend to last longer before the meat starts to taint due to spoilage. From my experience doves tend to keep a little better than rabbits or squirrels. I have sat out in a dove field all afternoon and when I get back to my truck the birds in my bag are just as good as they were when they were shot and have almost no foul smell to them.

If you enjoy the time it takes to hunt and harvest food for your table, it makes sense to treat it properly. Ensuring that your game is properly cared for so it can be served to your family is just as satisfying as the harvest. Enjoy one of the staff's favorite recipes.

—Justin Kliethermes
Lake City Resource Assistant

Deer Loin and Gravy

INGREDIENTS:

2 - 8oz can Cream of Mushroom Soup
4-6 deer loin steaks
1 package of dry onion soup mix

DIRECTIONS:

Pour one can cream of mushroom soup in bottom of crock pot or Dutch oven. Place 4-6 deer loin steaks on top of soup and add another can of cream of mushroom soup over top. Sprinkle one package of dry onion soup mix on top. Cook on low in crock pot 3 hours or in a 275 degree Dutch oven for 3 hours. Serve over rice or mashed potatoes.

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed (November: Friday, 14 & Wednesday 26 and December: Friday, 12 & 26).

Cooking Wild: Venison

November 1 • Saturday • 1–2:30 PM

Registration required began Oct. 1 (adults)
It is deer season, and for many Missourians, that means fun, outdoor adventure and a freezer full of venison! Join us as we dig into some great recipes including sausage, jerky and other tasty treats.

Native Pressed Flower Candles

November 8 • Saturday • 12:30–2:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

Enjoy learning about our native wildflowers while you create a candle that is uniquely you by choosing from a variety of pre-dried flowers and leaves, scents and colors of wax. Afterwards, join the naturalist for an optional nature hike on our Discovery Trail.

Babes in the Woods: Leaf Leaping

November 11 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 mos.)

There is nothing quite like the scent of fall and shuffling through autumn leaves. Join the fun as we play in a forest blanketed by colorful fallen leaves. This adventure is sure to help connect you and your little one to nature.

Conservation Kids Club:

Discover Flintknapping

November 11 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Flintknapping is the ancient craft of making stone tools and is a part of our cultural heritage. We'll also find out how deer antlers were used to make tools, and make our own to take home!

Little Acorns: Weird, Wacky & Wild

November 12 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

There are some strange animals in nature! Some are strange looking and some have strange behavior. Come learn about some of Missouri's weird and wacky wild creatures.

Home School:

Are You a Nature Whiz?

November 12 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

Take a nature trivia challenge and find out



if you know your stuff or if you have been watching too much TV! Test your knowledge of the where, when, what, how and whys of nature.

Talkin' Turkey

November 15 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

One of Missouri's largest birds, wild turkeys are fun to watch and popular with hunters.

Turkeys are now very common here, but at



one time there were very few in the state.

Join us as we take flight with this colorful, magnificent bird. We will also uncover some turkey myths along the way.

Wild Ones: Nuts to You

November 18 • Tuesday • 1–3 PM

Registration required (adults)

Discover the delicious nut producing trees native to Missouri. These same trees are essential to the very survival of some of our wild residents. Investigate tasty, nutritious treats that you can prepare for your own family while learning how wise use ensures enough for our wild families as well.

Natural Centerpiece

November 22 • Saturday • 10 AM–Noon

Registration required (adults)

Create a stunning natural centerpiece for your home! We will provide evergreens, dried native grasses, pine cones and other natural embellishments. Please bring a small wire-frame wreath as a base for your creation.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

November 29 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

December 27 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

NOTICE: There will be a managed archery deer hunt on Burr Oak Woods Conservation Area. The Nature Center, area, and trails will remain open during the hunt. All hunts are Monday through Friday. Dates include: Nov. 3–7, Nov. 10–14, Nov. 24–28, Dec. 1–5.



Burr Oak Woods Offers Volunteer Training

Do you have a love of nature and want to share it with others? If so, Burr Oak Woods is looking for you! We will host a volunteer training course beginning in February.

This 30-hour class will help prepare you to assist with many different opportunities at Burr Oak Woods including interpretive programs, special events, outdoor skills, animal care, native landscaping and more.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2015 training course for adults and for the youth volunteer program open to ages 14 and up. To apply, please stop by Burr Oak Woods Nature Center or contact Rebecca Miller at 816-228-3766 no later than Dec. 31.

Family Geocaching

November 29 · Saturday · 1–3 PM

Registration required (families)

Geocaching is a great way to merge technology, outdoor skills and family fun! Bring your sense of adventure as we teach the basics of geocaching and let you set out in search of secret caches together.

Natural Wreaths

December 6 · Saturday · 12:30–2 PM

Registration required beginning

Nov. 1 (adults)

Celebrate the season by crafting a natural artisan wreath! Evergreens, pine cones and many other natural trimmings will be provided. Please bring a small wire wreath as a base or grape vine as your creation.



Conservation Kids Club: Winter, Prairies and Starlight

December 9 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Join the Kids Club as we explore the magic of the tallgrass prairie and the stars on a cold winter's night. This interactive hike will allow your child to experience Burr Oak Woods in a way that most visitors never get to see.

Little Acorns: Wandering Waterfowl

December 10 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Sure, you've seen ducks and geese, many times! Do you know what a trumpeter swan looks like? How about a snow goose? Come learn about these birds as they travel through Missouri during the winter months.

Home School: Winter Survival

December 10 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for

ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8

Registration required

Jump, soar and pounce into a season full of winter wonder. Hear gripping stories of what it takes for animals to survive the wild winter.

Kids Craft Day

December 13 · Saturday · 10 AM–1 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Kids Craft Day is a great way to make the holidays special. Make one-of-a-kind natural gifts to give to the people you love this holiday season. Don't forget to create your own gift wrap before you leave!

Winter Photography for Families

December 20 · Saturday · 1–4 PM

Registration required (families)

The weather is cold, the leaves have fallen and the grass is brown. That does not mean you can't enjoy the outdoors. We will head out with digital cameras to capture the moodiness of a winter day. We will then return to the nature center and view our photographs on the big screen!

Burr Oak Woods Games

December 31 · Wednesday · 9 AM–4:30 PM

Registration required (8–18)

Don't be stuck inside all week. If you love to be outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then join us on your winter break for an exciting adventure.



You have been selected to participate in the fun-filled Burr Oak Woods Games. Your training will include *Wilderness Survival, In Search of*

Food and Water, Finding Your Way, Tracking, Archery and Primitive Hunting Skills. After roasting a hotdog for lunch, put your new skills to use in the Burr Oak Woods Nature Arena. May the odds be ever in your favor!

Nature Film Festival

December 27 · Saturday · 9 AM–3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Join us once again for an end of the year film festival! We are featuring the wonderful



fish, forests and wildlife found right here in Missouri. We will also be showing other nature movies and short documentaries throughout the day. Sit back and enjoy these spectacular nature films.

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday

and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Cable Restraint Certification

November 5 · Wednesday · 6–9 PM

Registration required (all ages)

If you are a trapper looking for another tool to help you on the trapping line; then you might want to explore cable restraint. The course of instructions includes general history of cable restraint, rules and regulations, length of season and more. This class is a requirement to trap with the cable restraint technique and certification will appear on your Resident Trapping Permit. This class will fill quickly.

Introduction to Paracord Weaving

November 12 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 8–17 + parents)

Student will learn to weave paracord into bracelets, friendship bracelets and other articles using the following types of weave: Cobra Weave, S-Weave, Half Hitch, Four Strand Weave and Back Cobra Weave. All material are supplied and everyone will go home with a new keychain!

Introduction to Skeet

November 15 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Basic Fire Starting and Camp Side Cooking

November 21 · Friday · 5–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Come join our staff in a fun filled camping adventure! Learn multiple techniques in fire starting and how to safely set your fire circle up. Once successfully starting our fires we will start with the preparation and cooking of some delicious camp side food. After we thoroughly enjoy our feast of homemade food, we will sit around the campfire, sharing stories and enjoying some s'mores.

Basic Handgun

November 22 · Saturday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered will include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Introduction to Air Rifle

December 6 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 10–18)

Are your kids interested in shooting but you don't know where or how to start? Air rifle is one of the best and safest ways to

start the youth off in the sport of shooting. We will cover the basic safety of a firearm, fundamentals of shooting, youth programs available and answer any questions that might be asked about air rifles. This will be a fun and safe way for kids to learn and enjoy the sport of shooting.

Introduction to Skeet

December 13 · Saturday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

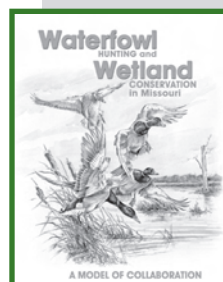
Are you a trap shooter who wants an exciting and quicker target game? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on all types of winged game.

Book Supports Wetland Conservation

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support, and dedicated funding have all led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations we enjoy today. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri – A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. The authors, many of them former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers, donated their services to produce the book. Sponsors – anchored by Missouri Department of Conservation, Bass Pro Shops, Ducks Unlimited, the Conservation

Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation, and private citizens — have covered production costs. All proceeds from sales will be dedicated to wetland and

waterfowl conservation. The book will be available in October. Meet the author and have your book signed on Tues. Nov., 4 from 7–8 p.m. at the Discovery Center.



Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

The New Age of Muzzleloading

The modern muzzleloading rifle isn't quite the same as the one that was carried by your ancestors. Though you do load a muzzleloader from the end and you only get one shot per loading, that's about where the similarities end. Today's muzzleloader is easy to use and safe to shoot.

Advances in metallurgy for steel used in the barrels as well as advances in the propellants make the modern version

a lot safer. New steel can withstand much higher pressures than old steel. New black powder substitutes are much more stable and harder to ignite than traditional black powder, which makes them safer to store and use.

Changes in propellants also

make muzzleloader maintenance and shooting easier. Modern propellants make muzzleloaders easy to load and easy to clean. Pre-measured pellets of propellants help speed up the loading process. Most modern propellants are less corrosive and can also be cleaned up with just hot water. There's even some propellant available today that can be cleaned up with traditional gun cleaning solvents.

To learn more about the modern muzzleloader, make plans to attend our Muzzleloading Rifle Safety and Shooting class on Dec. 6. As always, there is no charge for the class and all equipment can be provided. For more info on this or our full lineup of other classes, visit our website at <http://www.mdc.mo.gov/node/283>.

—Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor



Box to Bullseye

November 7 · Friday · 6–9 PM And
November 8 · Saturday · 8–9:30 AM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Do you have a new rifle or scope and don't know what to do next? Whether it's new or used, bring your rifle and scope to this class and let our expert staff show you how to go from the box to the bullseye. You will learn about the proper mounting of a scope, how to bore sight and correctly adjust the scope/bore alignment. You will then be instructed on rifle shooting fundamentals with our certified instructors. We will help you get your equipment ready and instruct you in the basic shooting fundamentals you will need to become an effective rifle shooter.

Field to Freezer

November 22 · Saturday · 9 AM–4 PM

Registration required (all ages)

Harvesting a big game animal is just the beginning of the work in providing a quality meat product to your family. More and more hunters are choosing to process their own animals due to the rising costs associated with commercial processing. You might be surprised how easy it is. Join our experienced staff as we journey through a simple, yet efficient method of deer processing.

Muzzleloading Rifle Safety and Shooting

December 6 · Saturday · 8AM–Noon

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Shooting a modern muzzleloader is safe, fun and can help extend your hunting season. In this class, our certified instructors will teach you everything you need to know to get started using them today. Course topics include the various equipment options, muzzleloader safety shooting fundamentals and more.

Firearms Cleaning and Care

December 9 · Tuesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Cleaning and maintaining your firearms is an important part of responsible gun ownership. It ensures that your firearms will function safely and reliably. Our certified



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

firearms instructors will get you started down the right path for proper maintenance and care regardless of your motivations for firearm ownership.

Sausage & Jerky Making

December 12 · Friday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

With a few simple tools it's easy to make great sausage and jerky. Whether you are just thinking about giving it a try, or are a jerky and sausage making seasoned veteran; you will benefit from this class. During this class we'll show you some of the equipment options then take you through the basic processes of making different sausages and jerky. We might even give you a recipe or two.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Deer Processing

November 1 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (ages 10+)

Not sure how to prepare your deer? Join us at the Discovery Center to watch and participate in the processing of a field dressed deer. Learn where certain cuts of meat come from and how to extract those cuts without causing damage to other cuts on the animal. You will even have the opportunity to grind, slice and package the meat for preparation at home.

Missouri Hunter Education Skills Session

November 1 • Saturday • 9 AM–1 PM
Registration required (ages 11+)

This skills session is the second half of the hunter education certification for those who have completed the online course option, the self-paced manual option or through attending a classroom session. Attendees will demonstrate proper firearm safety through hands on skills and take an exam at

the end. Attendees must provide a qualifier certificate or student manual with all review questions answered in order to complete the skills session. Registration and more information can be found at: <http://www.register-ed.com/programs/missouri>

Nature Nuts Storytime

November 1 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

November 15 • Saturday • 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Wetland Conservation Book Signing

November 4 • Tuesday • 7–8PM
No registration required (all ages)

The success of Missouri's waterfowl and wetland conservation is not an accident. Skillful execution of well-designed plans, public and private partnerships, strong citizen support and dedicated funding have all led to the quality wetland habitats and migratory bird populations we enjoy today. A new book, *Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri — A Model of Collaboration*, chronicles this success. Come learn more about the book from co-author Jeff Churan followed by a book signing.

The Bats of Missouri and Threats to Their Populations

November 4 • Tuesday • 7:15 PM
No registration required (adults)

Tony Elliott, a Resource Scientist with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will discuss the various species of bats that



inhabit Missouri including identifying characters, status and distribution. Population threats currently impacting bats will be covered also, with special emphasis on White-nose Syndrome.

Scout Program

November 4 • Tuesday • Evening
December 2 • Tuesday • Evening

Registration required (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact Wendy Parrett at (816) 759-7305 ext. 1141 or Wendy. Parrett@mdc.mo.gov to schedule an evening program.

Nature Print Making

November 15 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Creating art from nature is a natural using our studio printing press. Make beautiful inked impressions of leaves, grasses, feathers and snakeskins on gift bags, cards and watercolor paper. This will be a great way to introduce a nature theme to your holiday decor and gift giving.

Discover Nature KC Series: Natural Areas

November 18 • Tuesday • 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant) Ever wonder what the metro area looked like before it was settled; before there was a city here? Tucked away on public lands in the region are small remnants of what once was—places where the original landscape and biological diversity are still relatively intact. Some are state-designated Natural Areas, some are not. This program will take a look at these hidden gems—what we might call the most natural places we have left.

Holiday Greenings

December 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Thinking of making the holidays a little greener this season? Learn to decorate using native plants and trees. Fashion a festive holiday swag to hang using red cedar, prairie grasses, wild nuts, berries and seeds.

MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.



Nature Nuts Storytime

December 6 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

December 20 · Saturday · 10–11 AM,
11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.



DON FOOTE

Vacation with the Critters

December 26 · Friday

December 29–31 · Monday – Wednesday

10 AM – 3 PM *Walk-in* (all ages) Discover nature on the school break and learn about the animals that call Missouri home. Check out our exhibits, live animals and hands-on activities.

Backyard Birrrrrrrds!

December 20 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages) Winter is one of the best times to brave the cold and snow and go bird watching. Join us as we learn about our winged friends and who calls Kansas City home for the winter. You will have the opportunity to learn bird calls, identification techniques, make a feeder and go on a bird watching hike.

Photography Exhibit Showcases Missouri's Natural Bounty

Missourians discover nature in a variety of ways. Some enjoy hiking and bird watching while others enjoy the challenge of harvesting wild game. Discovery Center invites you to stop by during the months of November and December to enjoy two special photography exhibits. "Trophy Harvest" which is based around successful harvests and "Show-Me Nature" which highlights Missourians enjoying nature, both will leave you inspired to get outdoors.

SeedSavers-KC Seed Library now at Discovery Center

SeedSavers-KC is a not for profit community project that wants to improve the diets of people in the area by providing a seed library as a resource to get them started gardening. SeedSavers-KC promotes the use of our sturdy, useful and often edible native plants by providing their seeds to grow in flower and vegetable gardens.



Natives help encourage beneficial insects in your garden. The purpose of the seed library is to teach people about seed saving.

SeedSavers-KC has free classes on seed saving and gardening available at Discovery Center. To learn more or join the library, visit the Facebook page: SeedSavers-KC Seedsavers-KC website is: www.Seedsaverskc.org

Holiday Greenings

Our modern tradition of using evergreen trees and trimmings to decorate for the holidays may have begun with public pageants in medieval Europe. Called Mystery Plays, these events reenacted scenes from the Bible for the public in the days before books were invented. One popular Christmas presentation, which told the story of Adam and Eve, used an evergreen tree decorated with apples as a stage prop to symbolize immortality. Such trees became associated with Christmas and people began to put up trees in their homes during the holiday season. German immigrants later brought the

tradition to America. Evergreens are also used for holiday decorating for the simple reason that they are alive and green when everything else in the winter landscape is brown or dormant. Here are several native greens and hollies to consider using for your holiday decorating this year.

Eastern red cedar is the only evergreen tree native to the Kansas City area. It grows just about everywhere, but likes prairies, open rocky woods and old fields. Red cedar can be a nuisance when it invades healthy glade and prairie natural communities. The trees are beneficial to wildlife providing berries for food and a thick crown for nesting and roosting birds.

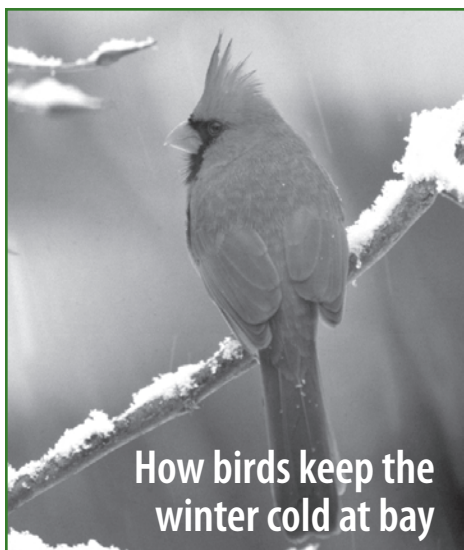
Short-leaf pine is the only native pine tree of Missouri. Pine woodlands were once a major natural community in the Ozarks until extensive logging in the late 1800's devastated the resource. Salvaged Ozark pine beams from a 100 year old building in downtown Kansas City were used in the

construction of the Discovery Center.

American holly is the one most associated with Christmas and is one of the state's rarest trees found in only a few southeast counties. Prickles on the leaves help protect the tree from winter browsers while the berries provide food for wildlife.

Winterberry is a deciduous holly that is found along streambeds in the St. Francois Mountains of the Ozarks. The bright red berries are favorites of bluebirds, robins and cedar waxwings. Look for winterberry growing near the birdfeeding area and along the new pond landscape at the Discovery Center.

To learn more about Missouri plants to use for holiday decorating plan on visiting the Discovery Center on Sat., Dec. 6. Participants will create ornaments and wreaths using prairie grasses, evergreens, nuts, seeds and pods.



How birds keep the winter cold at bay

BRRRRR! It's cold outside! What do people do when the temperature drops during this time of year? Some of us like to put on layers of clothes and enjoy nature during the short winter days and long nights. Others choose to stay indoors and maybe sip on a mug of hot chocolate.

What about the birds that call Missouri home? Many of them migrate south for warmer temperatures. But a number of birds choose to stay put and tough it out during the cold months. The big question is how do they do it? Fortunately birds have a variety of methods to survive our cold winters.

One of the most common methods birds use to survive the cold weather is fluffing their feathers. When birds fluff their feathers they often look twice as big. By doing this they create air pockets which adds additional insulation around their bodies.

Birds will also perch on one leg, switching frequently to protect each leg from the cold weather. Many small birds like chickadees and juncos will gather in large flocks and sleep in a small space to share body heat.

On sunny winter days birds will take advantage of the heat by turning their backs to the sun which allows their wings and bodies to be warmed.

One of the most important aspects of birds' survival during winter is locating food. This is where you can help. The Discovery Center will offer a program about how birds survive winter and backyard bird feeding from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 20. Activities will include making a simple birdfeeder for your home. We'll also step outside for a birding walk to find which birds call the Discovery Center home.

— Steve Jacobsen
Education Specialist

James A. Reed Area wants your comments

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) wants to know your suggestions for the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area in Lee's Summit. MDC is in the multi-year process of updating management plans for almost 1,000 conservation areas throughout the state and invites public comments.

Public comment on plans for the Reed Area can be made now via Internet at <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/22681>. Also, public comment sheets are available at the front counter in MDC's Kansas City Regional Office at 12405 S.E. Ranson Road. The public comment period will remain open through Nov. 30.

In addition, an open house will be held 4 to 8 p.m. on Wed., Nov. 5, at the Regional Office, which is on the Reed Area. The public is invited to share ideas, compliments or improvement suggestions with MDC staff at the open house. Staff will answer questions about management practices at the Reed

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Area or about conservation in general. Visitors will also be able to fill out comment sheets.

The Reed Area is celebrating more than 60 years offering Missourians

hunting, fishing, hiking, birding and other outdoor recreation. Families often visit the area to look for wildlife or perhaps to shoot at the target archery range. The 3,084-acre area includes 12 lakes ranging in size from one acre to 42 acres. In winter, trout fishing is popular. Information about the area is available at <http://on.mo.gov/1ADgDRq>.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**Discovery Center,
Parma Woods and
Lake City Shooting Ranges**

will be closed for these state holidays:

Veteran's Day, November 11

Thanksgiving, November 27

Christmas, December 25

New Year's Day, January 1



Winter Dendrology Workshop at BOW

December 9 · Tuesday · 8:30 AM–Noon
Registration required, began October 1, and ending November 25 (adults)

Any outdoorsman can ID trees with their leaves on, but bona fide tree nerds can even identify them in the winter. Join Urban Forester Chuck Conner as he teaches how to identify trees when they're "naked". Participants in this workshop will learn the basics of tree identification including leaf shapes, arrangements, buds, twig, fruit, bark, form, position in the landscape and other characteristics used to identify trees. Students will learn how to use reference books and keys to help identify trees in both a classroom setting and in the field.

Special emphasis will be given to the identification of native deciduous trees in their "leaf-off" or dormant condition using species specific characteristics and keys. Please wear clothing appropriate for going outdoors for approximately one hour. Workshop is free, but a Missouri winter tree key needs to be purchased for \$3. Required references: *A Key to Missouri Trees in Winter*, Cliburn and Wallace. Available through the Missouri Department of Conservation for \$3.00 plus tax. Copies will be available for purchase before the workshop at Burr Oak Woods Nature Shop. Key from *Trees of Missouri* by Don Kurz, will be provided by instructor day of workshop. To register for class, call 816-228-3766.